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Recreation Commission Minutes 5-16-2011

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2011

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Monday, May 16, 2011.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Henry Brush and Shirley Canniff.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No comments from the public.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Robbins Farm Slide – Mr. Connelly reviewed the public input session for the Robbins Farm Slide replacement. Mr. Connelly stated that the consensus was to keep the same grade and build the slide into the hill. Keeping two slides was the preferred option, along with retaining the existing steps. Options for appropriate finish landscaping between and alongside slides was of concern.

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated that the bid had been opened and was awarded to Heimlich Landscaping. Mr. Connelly shared the bid results with the Commission.

Thompson School Basketball Court – No report.

Peirce School – Mr. Connelly reviewed the correspondence from Kristin Garrigus regarding several clarifications. The Commission stated that at this point a meeting with the Capital subcommittee to discuss maintenance funding should take place prior to seeking any more information from any landscape architect.

Spy Pond Maintenance Plan – Mr. Connelly reviewed the cost of CRJA revising the maintenance plan for Spy Pond. Mr. Connelly indicated that it was several thousand dollars for the plan update alone, and he did not have that in his budget. The Commission agreed that it was not something that any budget could support at this time and suggested reaching out to the Friends of Spy Pond to see if this is something that they could fund or fundraise for.

Mr. Vitters asked if Mr. Connelly will inquire about the removal of the old RCN box at Peirce School playground/field.

Field Issues and Fees

Mr. Brush presented the Commission with his organization's proposal to have the current \$7.25 field fee incorporate the field lining fee and portable restroom costs. Mr. Brush stated that if all of these items are considered field maintenance they should be shared by all organizations not just a select few because they can be easily pulled out and identified. Ms. Mayer stated that portable restroom costs are not considered as field maintenance in the same way mowing, seeding, aeration and lining are, but are currently viewed as an extra amenity not provided at every field.

The Commission discussed this request. Before any decisions are made, Ms. Mayer asked if this could be discussed in the field summit that will take place this summer. Mr. Connelly stated that it absolutely could.

The Commission asked Mr. Connelly if the level of services would be returned to its previous level if the override was approved. Mr. Connelly stated that he believed that to be the case. The Commission suggested waiting until the results of the override before discussing any more changes.

Off leash Implementation (Article 36) Monthly Review

Mr. Connelly quickly reviewed the comments and correspondence received since the last Commission meeting regarding Article 36.

Stanton Foundation and Thorndike Field OLRA Update

Mr. Connelly gave a brief update of his meetings with the landscape architect and the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Mr. Connelly stated that the discussion was very productive but did focus around the surfacing material. Mr. Connelly stated that the Animal Rescue League continued to suggest the use of a stone material. Mr. Connelly believes that in the case of the Thorndike location that may be the surfacing also recommended by the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Mayer stated that the next step was to talk to the Conservation Commission and brainstorm ideas and concerns with them to incorporate into the design.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly stated that registration continues to be strong in the recreation programs and that the spring/summer brochure was just released.

Special Requests

Arlington Center for the Arts – Robbins Farm - Approved with noted restrictions – 4-0
Jeffrey Alexander – Robbins Farm Star Gazing - Approved with noted restrictions – 4-0
Donna Eidson/Community Educ. – Robbins Farm - Approved with noted restrictions – 4-0
Friends of Robbins Farm Summer Series – Approved with noted restrictions -4-0
4/30, 7/4, 7/14, 8/27, 9/23, 10/22, 11/5

Other Business

Ms. Mayer and Ms. Rothenberg asked that we request DPW to remove the old lattice structures that were used to house the portable restrooms two seasons ago.

Ms. Mayer asked that a Town Alert go out noting that any fundraising or soliciting on property under the jurisdiction of the Commission must receive prior approval of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Rothenberg asked that a calendar be set-up on the Town webpage to review park reservations. Mr. Connelly stated that he

felt this was a good idea and would talk to Joan Roman in the Town Manager's office.

Ms. Rothenberg and the Commission also discussed clarifying the policy regarding organizations using the fields when they are closed by the Town. There seems to be some inconsistency in its application. Mr. Connelly reviewed his understanding of the policy that an organization could use a field if closed by the Town if they felt it was playable but would be financially responsible if the field was damaged in any way. Some concern about this was expressed. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to discuss this with DPW and report back to them for further discussion.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation